

This effort is an example of bipartisanship at its best, and we are proud to have stood with members on the other side of the Capitol in seeing this through to the finish. In particular, we acknowledge Ways and Means Chairman KEVIN BRADY, Ranking Member RICHARD NEAL, former Ranking Member SANDER LEVIN, Speaker PAUL RYAN, Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI, and Congressmen VERNON BUCHANAN, ADRIAN SMITH, and DANNY DAVIS for their work to make sure more families stay safely together—not to mention the many other Members of the House who also supported this effort. In this Chamber, we particularly extend our gratitude for the leadership of Senators CHARLES GRASSLEY and MICHAEL BENNET and to the many others who supported this work since Senate legislative efforts first began on this issue in 2013.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this new law has the power to better the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and their families. It will for the first time allow States to invest Federal foster care dollars in evidence-based services, like substance use treatment and mental health and parenting programs, to prevent the need for foster care by keeping families safely together. It will provide critical new opportunities for families adopting children and relatives caring for kin by making these same services available when a child is at risk of reentering foster care. It will also support investments in Kinship Navigator programs to help grandparents and other relative caregivers who often take on the parenting role at a moment's notice.

The opioid crisis is showing why these investments are absolutely critical. After years of decline in the number of children in foster care, we have begun to see a steady increase, which many attribute to the opioid crisis. According to Federal data, at least 34 percent of foster care entries are attributed to parental substance use. Family First will be a game changer when it comes to fighting addiction, as States will now have many more tools to address these issues without breaking families apart. These tools will not only help with the current opioid epidemic, but they will position our Nation's child welfare system to respond to this crisis and any others that families may face in the future.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this new law will also give children and youth already in foster care new protections by making sure children get the services they need in the setting best suited for them. It creates robust standards for foster care providers operating group homes, congregate care, and residential treatment facilities. It will require these types of facilities to be equipped to meet children's needs and provide services that help address the trauma they have faced so they can return to live with family or be placed with a caring foster family as soon as possible. It will also promote a model

where children are placed in these types of facilities only when they need specific services that cannot be provided in another setting. Too often, children who can and should be living in families end up in group care simply because it is what is available, not because it is the best place for the child. This law helps tip the scales toward placing more children in family settings where children do best.

This new law amounts to the most significant changes to our child welfare system in decades, and it simply would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication, perseverance, education, and technical assistance of so many advocates and experts across the Nation. Today, we would like to acknowledge several such individuals, including: Akin Abioye, MaryLee Allen, Schylar Baber, Lauren Behsudi, William Bell, Mary Bissell, Celeste Bodner, Laura Boyd, Christine Calpin, JooYeon Chang, Hope Cooper, Kristi Craig, Nicole Dobbins, Kay Farley, Ruth Friedman, Ami Gadha, Rob Geen, Elizabeth Rigby Gibson, Christen Glickman, Lexie Gruber, Jesse Hahnel, Ron Haskins, Megan Hauck, Anne Heiligenstein, Jeremy Kohmban, Joe Kroll, Sherry Lachman, Zachary Laris, Brooke Lehmann, Jaia Lent, Rricha Mathur, Melanie Nathanson, Barbara Pryor, Lindsay Punzenberger, Rebecca Robuck, Jennifer Rodriguez, David Sanders, John Sciamanna, Stefanie Sprow, Becky Weichhand, Nancy Young, and Megan Zuckerman.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of key congressional staffers, including those at the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, and with House and Senate legislative counsel's office. These staffers pour immense time, effort, and expertise into turning concepts into legislation and are the epitome of dedicated public servants. In particular, we would like to acknowledge and thank Emilie Stoltzfus, Ruth Ernst, Jim Grossman, Susanne Mehlman, Sheila Dacey, and Jennifer Gray. We would like to thank key congressional and administration staffers, including Ryan Martin, Laura Berntsen, Anne DeCesaro, Morna Miller, Becky Shipp, Scott Raab, Veronica Duron, Ted McCann, Stephanie Parks, Wendell Primus, Samantha Offerdahl, Rafael Lopez, Jeff Hild, Jenny Delwood, Rose Hacking, and Sonja Nesbit.

We recognize there is not the space to acknowledge all of the countless individuals who made this law a reality, but we honor the contributions of those individuals and their organizations across the country as well. Opportunities for reform like this do not materialize out of nowhere; they are the result of hard work and perseverance by many committed to a cause. These individuals' vision for a better world for vulnerable children and families guided our work and we will be forever grateful for their commitment and dedication.

RECOGNIZING VERMONT ATHLETES IN THE 2018 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, late last month, as I watched Olympic Gold Medal winner Jessie Diggins carry our flag in the Pyeongchang closing ceremonies, I was overcome with pride—pride in Vermont and pride in our great country. Throughout the games, athletes raised in Vermont and those who choose to train at Vermont's world-class winter academies and programs showcased the very best of our winter wonderland. Vermont, ranked 49th in population among the States, sent the most athletes per capita to the games. While there, they showcased Vermont values, including respect, personal achievement and excellence, civility and good sportsmanship.

Vermont athletes were also incredibly successful during these games, bringing home three gold medals. Montpelier native Amanda Pelkey and the U.S. Women's Hockey Team capped a year battling for equal pay and treatment with a gold medal performance, stunning Canada in a thrilling final match. Burke Mountain Academy graduate Mikaela Schiffrin continued her stunning success, bringing home gold in the giant slalom and silver in the alpine combined. Jessie Diggins, from Stratton Mountain School's T2 elite team, lunged across the finish line in an exciting end to the women's cross-country skiing team sprint to grab the gold, the first cross-country gold medal ever for the United States.

Between the golden moments of triumph, we also saw the grit and determination of Vermont athletes to simply compete at the highest levels of their sport. In the slalom, Ryan Cochran-Siegle demonstrated his ability to overcome injuries and the odds as he enjoyed—and then gracefully ceded—the lead to his fellow athletes. His teammate, UVM alpine racer Tommy Bisemeyer, had the courage to speak honestly about the profound disappointment of suffering a training injury that cut short his second Olympic attempt. Other Vermont Olympians include Sophie Caldwell, cross-country skiing, from Peru; Caroline Claire, freestyle skiing, from Wilmington; Kelly Clark, snowboarding, from West Dover; Emily Dreissigacker, biathlon, from Morrisville; Susan Dunklee, biathlon, from Barton; Lindsey Jacobellis, snowboarding, from Stratton; Nolan Kasper, alpine skiing, from Warren; Devin Logan, freestyle skiing, from West Dover; Kaitlynn Miller, cross-country skiing, from Elmore; Andy Newell, cross-country skiing, from Shaftsbury; Ida Sargent, cross-country skiing, from Craftsbury Common; Emerson Smith, freestyle skiing, from Dover; and Liz Stephen, cross-country skiing, from Montpelier.

We as Vermonters are so proud of each and every Vermonter who went to Pyeongchang to represent the Green Mountain State and our country. Each of them competed fiercely and truly

represented the Olympic values of friendship, respect, and excellence—which also happen to be some of our cherished Vermont values. I congratulate each and every one of them.

MICHIGAN PTA CENTENNIAL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to the Michigan Parent Teacher Association, which this year is celebrating 100 years of advocacy on behalf of Michigan's children and families.

A lot has changed since the Michigan PTA was first established in Battle Creek on May 19, 1918. Parents today are as likely to learn school news via Facebook or text messages as they are from notes sent home, and students are as likely to learn their lessons on laptops and tablets as they are on the chalkboard.

However, one thing hasn't changed at all: Michigan PTA members are still working together every day to provide a quality education and nurturing environment for every Michigan child.

They do that in the best way possible, by bringing together families, educators, school boards, nonprofit organizations, businesses, community leaders, and elected officials around a common cause: promoting the welfare of Michigan children in school, at home, and in the community.

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, and the PTA is building that village.

They are building that village by offering parents resources on important topics like teen driving, bullying prevention, online safety, and career planning.

They are building that village by presenting the Fran Anderson Michigan PTA Scholarship to high school seniors who have demonstrated leadership and advocacy skills through their involvement in PTA.

They are building that village through Advocacy Day and advocacy training that gives members the tools they need to speak up for policies that benefit students, families, and schools.

They are building that village by ensuring that parents remain strong partners in the education of their children.

For a century, the Michigan PTA has made sure that the voices of our parents are heard and that the needs of our children are not forgotten. I have been honored to join them in this effort and look forward to continuing our work together.

Michigan's future is found in our children. Thanks to the Michigan PTA for 100 years of making that future a bright one.

Thank you.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 324. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1350. An act to modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1800. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs.

H.R. 3469. An act to designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foothills Parkway (commonly known as "Bridge 2") as the "Dean Stone Bridge".

H.R. 4266. An act to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4465. An act to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023, to require a report on the implementation of those programs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the Clerk of the House be directed to return to the Senate the bill (H.R. 1207) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the "Tilden Veterans Post Office", in compliance with a request of the Senate for the return thereof.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1800. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 4266. An act to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4465. An act to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023, to require a report on the implementation of those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1350. An act to modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4562. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program (NOP); Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices" ((RIN0581-AD75) (Docket No. AMS-NOP-15-0012)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4563. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4564. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of four (4) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4565. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 on March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4566. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4567. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alternatives to References to Credit Ratings With Respect to Permissible Activities for Foreign Branches of Insured State Non-member Banks and Pledge of Assets by Insured Domestic Branches of Foreign Banks" (RIN3064-AE36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4568. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electric Storage Participation in Markets Operated by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators" ((RIN1902-AF18) (Docket Nos. RM16-23-000 and AD16-20-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4569. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About 10 CFR Part 36 Irradiator Licenses" (NUREG-1556, Volume 6, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4570. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Arms Export Control Act (OSS-2018-0217); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4571. A communication from the Management Analyst, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates - Passport Services Fee Changes" (RIN1400-AD81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2018; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.